(c) and (d) In the States of Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura where separate laws have been enacted, the Indian Forests Act (Act 16 of 1927) is not applicable. Shifting Cultivation is governed by separate local rules and regulations. The Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 under which prior approval of the Centra] Government is needed for diversion of forest land to non-forest use is applicable to and effective in the States and Union Territories of the North-Eastern Region.

Destabilisation of third world nations

941.'SHRI DINKARRAO GOVIND-RAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Gen. Vernon Walters (Retd.) has formed an international terrorists or ganisation including Sikh World Organisation estabilise the democra tic socialistic nations of the third world countries; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Setting up of central Administrative Tribunal

942. SHRI KAILASH PATI MISH-RA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Quesion 1269 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th March, 1985 and state:

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal has since been set up: and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL AND TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSION AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO): (a) A notification under section 4(1) of the Administrative Tribunals Act, 1985 establishing the Central Administrative Tribunal with effect from 2nd September, 1985 has been issued. The Central Administrative Tribunal with a Principal Bench and additional Benches is expected to start functioning from that date.

(b) The Principal Bench of the Central Administrative Tribunal will be located at New Delhi. Efforts are being made to locate Additional Benches of the Tribunal at Bombay, Calcutta, Madras. Bangalore, Nagpur, Allahabad and Gauhati.

Political parties in league with tribal National Volunteers

943. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH; Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the national and regional political parties who are in league with the Tribal National Volunteers in Tripura; and

(b) what is the report of the State Home Department of Tripura in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) and (b) No report of any national or regional political party being in league with the Tribal National Volunteers in Tripura has come tO notice.

Steps to increase the efficiency of regional passport offices

944. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be plea sed to state what measures Govern ment propose to take to increase the efficiency of the regional passport offi ces and to minimise red-tapism in the issuance of passports during the cur rent year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) The Government have in the past one year thoroughly reviewed the administrative set-up of the Central Passport Organisation, and have revamped the 21 Passport Offices in the Country. The deployment of staff . now reflects current workload in each Passport Office. The Government of India made concerted efforts to promote and regularise the staff which has led to overall improvement in their morale and efficiency. The Government of India is proposing to progressively computerise Passport Offices in the country "beginning with four offices before the end of December, 1985. Comupterisation will lead to quick despatch of passports and efficient maintenance of records. Other methods to improve productivity and improvement of passport facilities like introduction of 'Electronic Cash Register' are being introduced. Application forms are also being simplified.

Instructions have been issued to all Passport Offices to render miscellaneous services on passports as far as possible in 2 working days in eligible cases and issue new passports in 5 working days *on* receipt of clear police reports.

Government have also started imparting training in Passport matters and public relations to the staff of Central Passport Organisation. Various other steps to improve efficiency of the entire set-up are under consideration.

न्यायिक जांच आयोग के सचिव की नियुक्ति में विलम्ब

945. श्री शंकर सिंह वाघेला :
श्री अश्विनी कुमार :
श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र :

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दिल्ली के क्षेत्रों में गत नवम्बर, मास में हुए दंगों के विभिन्न पहलुओं की जांच करने के लिए सरकार ने 26 अप्रैल, 1985 को एक न्यायिक जांच आयोग तो नियुक्त कर दिया था; किन्तु इस आयोग के सचिव की नियुक्ति दो मास बाद की गई ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सचिव की नियुक्ति में हुए विलम्ब के क्या कारण है ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती राम दुलारी सिन्हा) : (क) और (ख) आयोग का गठन 26 अप्रैल, 1985 को किया गया । संघ शासित क्षेत्र दिल्ली की उच्च न्यायिक सेवा के एक सदस्य श्री आर० एल० गुप्ता का मई में आयोग के सचिव के रूप में चयन किया गया था । तथा उन्होंने दिल्ली उच्च न्यायालय से कार्यमुक्त होने के बाद 1 जून, 1985 को कार्यभार संभाला ।

Bills pending: for the assent of the President

946. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS b$_e$ pleased to state:

(a) how many Bills passed by the States are pending at present for the assent of the President;

(b) what are the reasons for the delay; and

(c) whether Central Government have proposed any measures to avoid delay in giving President's assent to the pending Bills?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) As on 29.7-1985, 48 Bills are pending.

(b) and (c) Bills referred to the Central Government for President's assent are examined in the administrative Ministries/Departments which are concerned with the subject mat-ter. Sometimes due to the involvement of policy matters and issues of